1: Holmberg--7-8 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 137, 824

"The flora, like the fauna, is typical of the Amazon River Valley. The forests may be characterized especially by an abundance of palms, among which the principal varieties are the motacú, assaí, chonta, totaí, samuque, and cusí. All of these palms yield an edible heart and nuts or fruits, which constitute an important part of the diet of the Indians. No less important in this respect are other fruit trees, particularly the pacobilla, the coquino, the pacáy, and the aguaí.

Of the trees not producing fruit few are used by the Siriono. An exception is the ambaibo, the fiber of whose bark is twined into string out of which the hammocks and bow strings are made. Abundant in the area, however, are such common Amazon Valley trees as mahogany, ,ondurú, cedar, [8] bamboo, massaranduba, itaúba, mapájo, bibosi, palo santo, ochoó, and rubber. Along some of the rivers there are also stands of chuchio (reed) from which the Siriono make their arrow shafts.

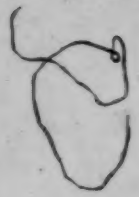
The pampa chiefly supports a grassy vegetation that is able to withstand extremes of wetness and dryness. Rows of palm are sometimes encountered on the pampa, but more often than not these plains are barren of trees as far as the eye can see."

1: Holmberg--27 [8] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 137, 222, 262

"Of all of the products collected, palm cabbage (kišía) is the most important. Practically all of the palms of the region yield an edible heart, but motacú is the most abundant and one of the easiest from which to extract the kišía (the tree is always cut down). It provides a constant source of vegetable food. This palm, moreover, produces a fruit (yukúdi) about the size of an egg, which grows in bunches, and which also forms an important staple in the diet the year around. When pickings are especially slim these two products, although not very nourishing, can always be relied upon to tide the Indians over until a more substantial diet can be obtained. As we shall see later, the importance of the palm cabbage is reflected in the magical aspect of the culture, its collection by women being occasionally preceded by a magical bloodletting rite."

1: Holmberg--27-28 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 137, 222, 262

"Other palms, besides yielding a comestible heart the year around, also bear fruits which mature in a more seasonal cycle than the motacú. During [28] February, March, and April, the small red fruits of the chonta palm (siríba) are collected. At this season of the year the Indians also devote themselves to gathering the fruit of a palm not unlike the motacú which they call hindoéra. In extracting these fruits, which grow in bunches, the tree is climbed and the cluster pulled down."



1: Holmberg--28 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 137, 222, 262

"During the months of July, August, and September there is an abun ant harvest of the fruits of the samuque palm (tíba) and of the nuts of the cusi palm. These latter, which are usually collected on the ground after they have fallen from t e trees, are one of the most nutritious wild foods found in this part of the Amazon Valle y. The fruits of the assaí (tibaéra) and the totaí (korondía) palms, which are extensive y used by the whites of the region for making wine, are not collected by the Siriono ith whom I lived."

1: Holmberg--28 [2] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 137, 222, 262

"In addition to the above-mentioned palms, there are many other fruit-bearing trees which seasonally add their crops to the Siriono food supply. Predominant in the months of February, March, and April are the fruits of the coquino (íba), the aguaí (ibadíša), the gargatéa (dikišía), pacáy (íNga), wapomo (asambákwa), pacobilla (idayá), cocáo (ibíro), balláu (jičiba), and paquió (tibári), as well as unidentified wild fruits which the Siriono call mbéa, tikaría, and taruma. There is only one other fruit of any importance gathered in the dry season. This is an acid fruit known to the whites of the region as mbís and to the Siriono as ndía."

1: Holmberg--28 [3] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 137, 222

"In collecting wild fruits the men climb the trees and throw them down to the women waiting below. This often entails considerable work as the trees are sometimes of such size that it is necessary to lash saplings to them in order to climb them, and it is frequently hazardous since a man is liable to fall from a branch while picking the fruits. If the fruits are not located too high in a tree, however, a man may fashion a rude hook by bending over and binding with liana the top end of a midrib of a motacú palm leaf, which can then be used to pull the fruits down from the tree. People usually eat their fill at the site of a fruit tree before loading their baskets to carry back to camp."